

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-116. (Canceled)

117. (New) A method of detecting HIV-2 retrovirus nucleic acid in a biological sample, said method comprising:

a) contacting said sample with an HIV-2 specific probe under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1% SDS, wherein said probe comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule, which hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under nonstringent conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS;

wherein the probe comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule obtained from nucleotides 1-380 of the U3/R region of HIV-2, nucleotides 1-1566 of the *gag* gene of HIV-2, nucleotides 1114-1524 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 1-405 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 406-1155 of the *gag* gene, or nucleotides 1-2673 of the *env* gene of HIV-2 or a fragment thereof;

b) washing the resulting hybrid; and

c) detecting said hybrid.

118. (New) A method of producing an HIV-2 specific hybridization probe for HIV-2 retrovirus nucleic acid, said method comprising:

a) providing a nucleic acid insert, which hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1 % SDS,

wherein the insert comprises an HIV-2 nucleic acid molecule obtained from nucleotides 1-380 of the U3/R region of HIV-2, nucleotides 1-1566 of the *gag* gene of HIV-2, nucleotides 1114-1524 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 1-405 of the *gag* gene, nucleotides 406-1155 of the *gag* gene, or nucleotides 1-2673 of the *env* gene of HIV-2 or a fragment thereof;

- b) introducing the insert into a vector;
- c) introducing said vector into a competent cellular host;
- d) culturing the cellular host; and
- e) recovering the DNA recombinants.

119. (New) The method of claim 117, wherein the washing of the resulting hybrid occurs under conditions of 50°C in an aqueous solution comprising 2X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS.

120. (New) The method of claim 118, wherein the insert hybridizes to HIV-2<sub>ROD</sub> genomic DNA deposited as CNCM I-352 under hybridization conditions of 42°C in the presence of an aqueous solution comprising 30% formamide in 5X SSC buffer, 0.1% SDS and after washing the resulting hybrid under conditions of 50°C in an aqueous solution comprising 2X SSC buffer and 0.1% SDS.

121. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe is obtained from the following sequence:

GTGGAAGGCG AGACTGAAAG CAAGAGGAAT ACCATTTAGT TAAAGGACAG

GAACAGCTAT ACTTGGTCAG GGCAGGAAGT AACTAACAGA AACAGCTGAG  
 ACTGCAGGGA CTTTCCAGAA GGGGCTGTAA CCAAGGGAGG GACATGGGAG  
 GAGCTGGTGG GGAACGCCTC ATATTCTCTG TATAATATAC CCGCTGCTTG  
 CATTGTACTT CAGTCGCTCT GCGGAGAGGC TGGCAGATTG AGCCCTGGAG  
 GATCTCTCCA GCACTAGACG GATGAGCCTG GGTGCCCTGC TAGACTCTCA  
 CCAGCACTTG GCCGGTGCTG GCAGACGGCC CCACGCTTGC CTGCTTAAAA  
 ACCTTCCTTA ATAAAGCTGC AGTAGAAGCA.

122. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Gly Ala Arg Asn Ser Val Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Ala Asp Glu Leu  
 Glu Arg Ile Arg Leu Arg Pro Gly Gly Lys Lys Lys Tyr Arg Leu Lys  
 His Ile Val Trp Ala Ala Asn Lys Leu Asp Arg Phe Gly Leu Ala Glu  
 Ser Leu Leu Glu Ser Lys Glu Gly Cys Gln Lys Ile Leu Thr Val Leu  
 Asp Pro Met Val Pro Thr Gly Ser Glu Asn Leu Lys Ser Leu Phe Asn  
 Thr Val Cys Val Ile Trp Cys Ile His Ala Glu Glu Lys Val Lys Asp  
 Thr Glu Gly Ala Lys Gln Ile Val Arg Arg His Leu Val Ala Glu Thr  
 Gly Thr Ala Glu Lys Met Pro Ser Thr Ser Arg Pro Thr Ala Pro Ser  
 Ser Glu Lys Gly Gly Asn Tyr Pro Val Gln His Val Gly Gly Asn Tyr  
 Thr His Ile Pro Leu Ser Pro Arg Thr Leu Asn Ala Trp Val Lys Leu  
 Val Glu Glu Lys Lys Phe Gly Ala Glu Val Val Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala  
 Leu Ser Glu Gly Cys Thr Pro Tyr Asp Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Asn Cys  
 Val Gly Asp His Gln Ala Ala Met Gln Ile Ile Arg Glu Ile Ile Asn  
 Glu Glu Ala Ala Glu Trp Asp Val Gln His Pro Ile Pro Gly Pro Leu  
 Pro Ala Gly Gln Leu Arg Glu Pro Arg Gly Ser Asp Ile Ala Gly Thr  
 Thr Ser Thr Val Glu Glu Gln Ile Gln Trp Met Phe Arg Pro Gln Asn  
 Pro Val Pro Val Gly Asn Ile Tyr Arg Arg Trp Ile Gln Ile Gly Leu  
 Gln Lys Cys Val Arg Met Tyr Asn Pro Thr Asn Ile Leu Asp Ile Lys  
 Gln Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe Gln Ser Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys  
 Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Gln Thr Asp Pro Ala Val Lys Asn Trp Met Thr  
 Gln Thr Leu Leu Val Gln Asn Ala Asn Pro Asp Cys Lys Leu Val Leu  
 Lys Gly Leu Gly Met Asn Pro Thr Leu Glu Glu Met Leu Thr Ala Cys  
 Gln Gly Val Gly Gly Pro Gly Gln Lys Ala Arg Leu Met Ala Glu Ala  
 Leu Lys Glu Val Ile Gly Pro Ala Pro Ile Pro Phe Ala Ala Ala Gln  
 Gln Arg Lys Ala Phe Lys Cys Trp Asn Cys Gly Lys Glu Gly His Ser  
 Ala Arg Gln Cys Arg Ala Pro Arg Arg Gln Gly Cys Trp Lys Cys Gly  
 Lys Pro Gly His Ile Met Thr Asn Cys Pro Asp Arg Gln Ala Gly Phe  
 Leu Gly Leu Gly Pro Trp Gly Lys Lys Pro Arg Asn Phe Pro Val Ala  
 Gln Val Pro Gln Gly Leu Thr Pro Thr Ala Pro Pro Val Asp Pro Ala  
 Val Asp Leu Leu Glu Lys Tyr Met Gln Gln Gly Lys Arg Gln Arg Glu  
 Gln Arg Glu Arg Pro Tyr Lys Glu Val Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His Leu  
 Glu Gln Gly Glu Thr Pro Tyr Arg Glu Pro Pro Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu  
 His Leu Asn Ser Leu Phe Gly Lys Asp Gln.

123. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Arg Lys Ala Phe Lys Cys Trp Asn Cys Gly Lys Glu Gly His Ser Ala  
Arg Gln Cys Arg Ala Pro Arg Arg Gln Gly Cys Trp Lys Cys Gly Lys  
Pro Gly His Ile Met Thr Asn Cys Pro Asp Arg Gln Ala Gly Phe Leu  
Gly Leu Gly Pro Trp Gly Lys Lys Pro Arg Asn Phe Pro Val Ala Gln  
Val Pro Gln Gly Leu Thr Pro Thr Ala Pro Pro Val Asp Pro Ala Val  
Asp Leu Leu Glu Lys Tyr Met Gln Gln Gly Lys Arg Gln Arg Glu Gln  
Arg Glu Arg Pro Tyr Lys Glu Val Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His Leu Glu  
Gln Gly Glu Thr Pro Tyr Arg Glu Pro Pro Thr Glu Asp Leu Leu His  
Leu Asn Ser Leu Phe Gly Lys Asp Gln.

124. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Gly Ala Arg Asn Ser Val Leu Arg Gly Lys Lys Ala Asp Glu Leu  
Glu Arg Ile Arg Leu Arg Pro Gly Gly Lys Lys Lys Tyr Arg Leu Lys  
His Ile Val Trp Ala Ala Asn Lys Leu Asp Arg Phe Gly Leu Ala Glu  
Ser Leu Leu Glu Ser Lys Glu Gly Cys Gln Lys Ile Leu Thr Val Leu  
Asp Pro Met Val Pro Thr Gly Ser Glu Asn Leu Lys Ser Leu Phe Asn  
Thr Val Cys Val Ile Trp Cys Ile His Ala Glu Glu Lys Val Lys Asp  
Thr Glu Gly Ala Lys Gln Ile Val Arg Arg His Leu Val Ala Glu Thr  
Gly Thr Ala Glu Lys Met Pro Ser Thr Ser Arg Pro Thr Ala Pro Ser  
Ser Glu Lys Gly Gly Asn Tyr.

125. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Pro Val Gln His Val Gly Gly Asn Tyr Thr His Ile Pro Leu Ser Pro  
Arg Thr Leu Asn Ala Trp Val Lys Leu Val Glu Glu Lys Lys Phe Gly  
Ala Glu Val Val Pro Gly Phe Gln Ala Leu Ser Glu Gly Cys Thr Pro  
Tyr Asp Ile Asn Gln Met Leu Asn Cys Val Gly Asp His Gln Ala Ala  
Met Gln Ile Ile Arg Glu Ile Ile Asn Glu Glu Ala Ala Glu Trp Asp  
Val Gln His Pro Ile Pro Gly Pro Leu Pro Ala Gly Gln Leu Arg Glu  
Pro Arg Gly Ser Asp Ile Ala Gly Thr Thr Ser Thr Val Glu Glu Gln  
Ile Gln Trp Met Phe Arg Pro Gln Asn Pro Val Pro Val Gly Asn Ile  
Tyr Arg Arg Trp Ile Gln Ile Gly Leu Gln Lys Cys Val Arg Met Tyr  
Asn Pro Thr Asn Ile Leu Asp Ile Lys Gln Gly Pro Lys Glu Pro Phe  
Gln Ser Tyr Val Asp Arg Phe Tyr Lys Ser Leu Arg Ala Glu Gln Thr  
Asp Pro Ala Val Lys Asn Trp Met Thr Gln Thr Leu Leu Val Gln Asn  
Ala Asn Pro Asp Cys Lys Leu Val Leu Lys Gly Leu Gly Met Asn Pro  
Thr Leu Glu Glu Met Leu Thr Ala Cys Gln Gly Val Gly Gly Pro Gly  
Gln Lys Ala Arg Leu Met Ala Glu Ala Leu Lys Glu Val Ile Gly Pro

Ala Pro Ile Pro Phe Ala Ala Ala Gln Gln.

126. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 and 118, wherein said probe encodes the following amino acid sequence:

Met Met Asn Gln Leu Leu Ile Ala Ile Leu Leu Ala Ser Ala Cys Leu  
Val Tyr Cys Thr Gln Tyr Val Thr Val Phe Tyr Gly Val Pro Thr Trp  
Lys Asn Ala Thr Ile Pro Leu Phe Cys Ala Thr Arg Asn Arg Asp Thr  
Trp Gly Thr Ile Gln Cys Leu Pro Asp Asn Asp Asp Tyr Gln Glu Ile  
Thr Leu Asn Val Thr Glu Ala Phe Asp Ala Trp Asn Asn Thr Val Thr  
Glu Gln Ala Ile Glu Asp Val Trp His Leu Phe Glu Thr Ser Ile Lys  
Pro Cys Val Lys Leu Thr Pro Leu Cys Val Ala Met Lys Cys Ser Ser  
Thr Glu Ser Ser Thr Gly Asn Asn Thr Thr Ser Lys Ser Thr Ser Thr  
Thr Thr Thr Thr Pro Thr Asp Gln Glu Gln Glu Ile Ser Glu Asp Thr  
Pro Cys Ala Arg Ala Asp Asn Cys Ser Gly Leu Gly Glu Glu Glu Thr  
Ile Asn Cys Gln Phe Asn Met Thr Gly leu Glu Arg Asp Lys Lys Lys  
Gln Tyr Asn Glu Thr Trp Tyr Ser Lys Asp Val Val Cys Glu Thr Asn  
Asn Ser Thr Asn Gln Thr Gln Cys Tyr Met Asn His Cys Asn Thr Ser  
Val Ile Thr Glu Ser Cys Asp Lys His Tyr Trp Asp Ala Ile Arg Phe  
Arg Tyr Cys Ala Pro Pro Gly Tyr Ala Leu Leu Arg Cys Asn Asp Thr  
Asn Tyr Ser Gly Phe Ala Pro Asn Cys Ser Lys Val Val Ala Ser Thr  
Cys Thr Arg Met Met Glu Thr Gln Thr Ser Thr Trp Phe Gly Phe Asn  
Gly Thr Arg Ala Glu Asn Arg Thr Tyr Ile Tyr Trp His Gly Arg Asp  
Asn Arg Thr Ile Ile Ser Leu Asn Lys Tyr Tyr Asn Leu Ser Leu His  
Cys Lys Arg Pro Gly Asn Lys Thr Val Lys Gln Ile Met Leu Met Ser  
Gly His Val Phe His Ser His Tyr Gln Pro Ile Asn Lys Arg Pro Arg  
Gln Ala Trp Cys Trp Phe Lys Gly Lys Trp Lys Asp Ala Met Gln Glu  
Val Lys Thr Leu Ala Lys His Pro Arg Tyr Arg Gly Thr Asn Asp Thr  
Arg Asn Ile Ser Phe Ala Ala Pro Gly Lys Gly Ser Asp Pro Glu Val  
Ala Tyr Met Trp Thr Asn Cys Arg Gly Glu Phe Leu Tyr Cys Asn Met  
Thr Trp Phe Leu Asn Trp Ile Glu Asn Lys Thr His Arg Asn Tyr Ala  
Pro Cys His Ile Lys Gln Ile Ile Asn Thr Trp His Lys Val Gly Arg  
Asn Val Tyr Leu Pro Pro Arg Glu Gly Glu Leu Ser Cys Asn Ser Thr  
Val Thr Ser Ile Ile Ala Asn Ile Asp Trp Gln Asn Asn Asn Gln Thr  
Asn Ile Thr Phe Ser Ala Glu Val Ala Glu Leu Tyr Arg Leu Glu Leu  
Gly Asp Tyr Lys Leu Val Glu Ile Thr Pro Ile Gly Phe Ala Pro Thr  
Lys Glu Lys Arg Tyr Ser Ser Ala His Gly Arg His Thr Arg Gly Val  
Phe Val Leu Gly Phe Leu Gly Phe Leu Ala Thr Ala Gly Ser Ala Met  
Gly Ala Arg Ala Ser Leu Thr Val Ser Ala Gln Ser Arg Thr Leu Leu  
Ala Gly Ile Val Gln Gln Gln Gln Gln Leu Leu Asp Val Val Lys Arg  
Gln Gln Glu Leu Leu Arg Leu Thr Val Trp Gly Thr Lys Asn Leu Gln  
Ala Arg Val Thr Ala Ile Glu Lys Tyr Leu Gln Asp Gln Ala Arg Leu  
Asn Ser Trp Gly Cys Ala Phe Arg Gln Val Cys His Thr Thr Val Pro  
Trp Val Asn Asp Ser Leu Ala Pro Asp Trp Asp Asn Met Thr Trp Gln  
Glu Trp Glu Lys Gln Val Arg Tyr Leu Glu Ala Asn Ile Ser Lys Ser  
Leu Glu Gln Ala Gln Ile Gln Gln Glu Lys Asn Met Tyr Glu Leu Gln

Lys Leu Asn Ser Trp Asp Ile Phe Gly Asn Trp Phe Asp Leu Thr Ser  
 Trp Val Lys Tyr Ile Gln Tyr Gly Val Leu Ile Ile Val Ala Val Ile  
 Ala Leu Arg Ile Val Ile Tyr Val Val Gln Met Leu Ser Arg Leu Arg  
 Lys Gly Tyr Arg Pro Val Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro Gly Tyr Ile Gln Gln  
 Ile His Ile His Lys Asp Arg Gly Gln Pro Ala Asn Glu Glu Thr Glu  
 Glu Asp Gly Gly Ser Asn Gly Gly Asp Arg Tyr Trp Pro Trp Pro Ile  
 Ala Tyr Ile His Phe Leu Ile Arg Gln Leu Ile Arg Leu Leu Thr Arg  
 Leu Tyr Ser Ile Cys Arg Asp Leu Leu Ser Arg Ser Phe Leu Thr Leu  
 Gln Leu Ile Tyr Gln Asn Leu Arg Asp Trp Leu Arg Leu Arg Thr Ala  
 Phe Leu Gln Tyr Gly Cys Glu Trp Ile Gln Glu Ala Phe Gln Ala Ala  
 Ala Arg Ala Thr Arg Glu Thr Leu Ala Gly Ala Cys Arg Gly Leu Trp  
 Arg Val Leu Glu Arg Ile Gly Arg Gly Ile Leu Ala Val Pro Arg Arg  
 Ile Arg Gln Gly Ala Glu Ile Ala Leu Leu \*\*\* Gly Thr Ala Val Ser  
 Ala Gly Arg Leu Tyr Glu Tyr Ser Met Glu Gly Pro Ser Ser Arg Lys  
 Gly Glu Lys Phe Val Gln Ala Thr Lys Tyr Gly,

wherein \*\*\* indicates a stop codon.

127. (New) The method of any one of claims 117 or 118, wherein said probe comprises a cDNA or a fragment thereof.